REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-19 are now present in the application. No claims have been amended in this Reply. Claims 1 and 8 are independent. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6-12 and 14-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tuchitoi, U.S. Patent No. 7,145,683, in view of Barrett, U.S. Patent No. 5,935,262. Claims 5 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tuchitoi in view of Barrett, and further in view of Gassho, U.S. Patent No, 7,180,626. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

Independent claim 1 recites a combination of elements including "a plurality of client stations adapted to submit print jobs, wherein each of the client stations includes means for generating and submitting a print account job which is generated as a second print job, the print account job containing account information of a corresponding print job and linked to the corresponding print job by a linking identifier; at least one printing device including a control unit and a printer, the control unit including storage means for storing the print jobs and the corresponding print account jobs submitted from the client stations to the printing device; and means for validating the stored print jobs for printing, wherein said validating means receives the

PCL/GH/ma

print account jobs and validates a corresponding print job for printing in the case a valid print account job generated as the second print job has been received."

Independent claim 8 recites a combination of elements including "a control unit; and a printer, wherein the control unit is adapted to receive a print job, and a corresponding print account job generated as a second print job, the control unit including: storage means for storing the print job and the corresponding print account job in a holding queue; means for validating the stored print job for printing, said validating means being adapted to receive the corresponding print account job and validate the print job for printing in case the corresponding print account job generated as the second print job is valid."

Applicant respectfully submit that the combinations of elements set forth in claims 1 and 8 are not disclosed or suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

The Examiner has correctly acknowledged that Tuchitoi fails to teach that the print account job is generated as a second print job and therefore fails to teach "a plurality of client stations adapted to submit print jobs, wherein each of the client stations includes means for generating and submitting a print account job which is generated as a second print job, the print account job containing account information of a corresponding print job and linked to the corresponding print job by a linking identifier" as recited in claim 1 and "the control unit is adapted to receive a print job, and a corresponding print account job generated as a second print job" as recited in claim 8.

However, the Examiner turned to rely on Barrett's teaching and alleged that Barrett can cure the deficiencies of Tuchitoi and Davidson. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

In particular, Barrett discloses a network device that interfaces between a local area network (LAN) and an image forming apparatus, and can output a log file generated by an autologging function. The log file of Barrett contains job information of all jobs sent to the image forming apparatus, such as the user of each print job (13003), the date (13001) and time (13002) on/at which all print jobs are printed, etc. (see FIG. 13). The Examiner alleged that Barrett's log file is the account print job which contains account information of a corresponding print job and is linked to the corresponding print job by a link identifier as recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

First, the log file of Barrett contains account information of a plurality of print jobs (see SOJ information in Table 1 in col. 14 of Barrett), and each entry of the log file is linked to a regular print job. However, since the log file registers every print job sent to the printing apparatus, the log file contains information of a plurality of print jobs. In other words, there is a many-to-one relation between the print jobs and the log file. Unlike Barrett, in the present invention, each job has a corresponding account print job, and each account print job contains only information of the corresponding print job. In other words, there is a one-to-one relation between a print job and its corresponding account print job in the present invention. Therefore, Barrett's log file is not the account print job as recited in claims 1 and 8.

Second, Barrett in FIG. 11 discloses that the log file is submitted to the image forming apparatus only if a triggering condition is detected. This is in contrast with the present invention. In particular, in the present invention, each time when a print job is submitted, an account print job corresponding to the print job is also submitted. An example of a submission command of a print job and a print account job is given in paragraph [0017]-[0020] of the present application.

PCL/GH/ma

As embodied in the present application, the print job and the print account job can be linked by the job name and a unique code as follows:

> Lpr "Tulip Bridge overall view - C715"

> Lpr "[account info] Tulip Bridge overall view - C715"

In this example, each of the print job and the print account job are submitted via an Lpr command. The printing device is aware of the special prefix [account info] to recognize the print account job as a job providing account information for a corresponding print job having the same job name. Since each of the print job and the print account job is submitted as a print job, the system of the present invention has the advantage that both jobs can be treated in the same way until they reach the control unit of the printing device, and the control unit can distinguish the print jobs from the print account jobs based on the information such as the special prefix [account info]. These features are clearly absent from Barrett and Tuchitoi.

Third, when a log file is submitted to the image forming apparatus of Barrett, it is printed on the image forming apparatus. Unlike Barrett, in the present invention, the print account job is not printed. Instead, after printing of the corresponding print job, the print account job is removed from the holding queue of the printing device (see paragraph [0024], last three lines, and step 21 of FIG. 4) without being printed.

Fourth, in the present invention, the account print job is used to validate the corresponding print job before printing. However, Barrett nowhere discloses that the log file is used to validate any print job corresponding to the log file when printing such a print job. Although the Examiner alleged that Tuchitoi discloses using ID and password to validate the corresponding print job before printing, the combination of Tuchitoi of Barrett still fails to teach

PCL/GH/ma

using the log file to validate the corresponding print job before printing. In fact, Tuchitoi and Barrett nowhere disclose a mechanism to extract from the log file the account information of a present job to be printed. Therefore, it is evident that the log file of Barrett will not be used for validating any print job. Accordingly, the combination of Tuchitoi of Barrett fails to teach "said validating means receives the print account jobs and validates a corresponding print job for printing in the case a *valid* print account job generated as the second print job has been received" as recited in claim 1, and "validating means being adapted to receive the corresponding print account job and validate the print job for printing in case the corresponding print account job generated as the second print job is *valid*" as recited in claim 8.

Applicant also respectfully submits that combining Tuchitoi and Barrett would simply lead to print a print job, sending along with each print job the complete log file as a second print application. This will *degrade* the system performance since a log file will expand to a large file within a short period of time when the image forming apparatus prints jobs frequently, because the log file has to include the information for all printed jobs. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to modify Tuchitoi in view of Barrett's log file.

With regard to the Examiner's reliance on Gassho, this reference has only been relied on for its teachings against some dependent claims. This reference also fails to disclose the above combinations of elements as set forth in independent claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, this reference fails to cure the deficiencies of Tuchitoi, Davidson and Combar.

Accordingly, none of the utilized references individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of independent claims 1 and 8. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 8 clearly define over the teachings of the utilized references.

PCL/GH/ma

In addition, claims 2-7 and 9-19 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claims 1 and 8, and are therefore allowable based on their respective dependence from independent claims 1 and 8, which are believed to be allowable.

In view of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-19 clearly define the present invention over the references relied on by the Examiner. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed and/or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently pending rejections and that they be withdrawn.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Cheng-Kang (Greg) Hsu, Registration No. 61,007 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

PCL/GH/ma

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 22, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

By

Paul C. Lewis
Registration No.: 43,368
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant